

## **OVERSEAS HUMANITARIAN, DISASTER, and CIVIC AID (OHDACA) APPROPRIATION**

The OHDACA appropriation includes three sub-activities: the Humanitarian Assistance Program (HAP), the Humanitarian Mine Action Program (HMA) and Foreign Disaster Relief and Emergency Response Assistance (FDR/ER). Congress appropriated \$58.4 million in FY 2003 for OHDACA activities and projects. The FY 2004 President's Budget request reflects \$59.0 million. The period of availability for the annual appropriation is two years. The OHDACA appropriation supports the Administration's National Security Strategy and the Secretary of Defense Security Cooperation Strategy by:

- Maintaining a robust overseas presence aimed at shaping the international security environment in a manner that assures our allies and friends, deters threats against U.S. interests, and promotes peace, democracy, and human rights in unstable regions.
- Assisting U.S. forces to respond rapidly and effectively to crises across the full range of military operations including assisting the victims of storms, earthquakes and other natural or manmade disasters.

OHDACA programs are unobtrusive, low cost, but highly effective instruments that permit the Combatant Commanders to carry out their regional security cooperation strategy and missions.

- Augment the Commander's capabilities to respond rapidly and effectively to humanitarian crises.
- U.S. military obtains substantial training and access benefits by participating in OHDACA activities enhancing readiness across a number of operational areas — including C3I, civil affairs, civil engineering, medical, special operations, and logistics.

***Humanitarian Assistance Program*** is designed to shape the military environment and enable crisis response. DoD humanitarian assistance supports regional security cooperation strategies by providing access to selected countries, and fosters goodwill for the U.S. military in these countries.

- It seeks to avert humanitarian crises, promote democratic development and regional stability, and enable countries to recover from conflict. By providing early assistance, the program minimizes the potential for crises to develop or escalate further.
- Regional stability is enhanced, minimizing the risk of eventual large-scale deployments of U.S. military forces.
- Allows transportation assistance for relief supplies donated by private voluntary and non-governmental agencies and international organizations.
- Arranges for donations and transportation of excess non-lethal DoD property.
- Procurement of specialty items in support of DoD's humanitarian mission, such as Humanitarian Daily Rations (HDR).
- On-the-ground assistance activities aimed at relieving suffering and improving USG presence. Activities include assessment visits, training and modest construction projects, well drilling, as well as medical, technical and logistical assistance.

***Humanitarian Mine Action (HMA) Program*** is a major component of the USG and DoD's security cooperation efforts. The OHDACA appropriation provides funding for the training of foreign nations in medical subjects, mine risk education, the detection and lifting of landmines and other explosive remnants of war (ERW).

- Permits DoD to accrue significant training and readiness-enhancing benefits to U.S. forces, while at the same time contributing to alleviating a highly visible, worldwide problem.

- HMA is comprised of five complementary activities or ‘pillars’: infrastructure development for host nation mine action agencies, explosive remnants of war (ERW) education and risk reduction, demining (survey/marketing/mapping, clearance, and quality assurance/control), victims’ assistance, and research and development to improve the effectiveness of all aspects of the first 4 pillars.
- U.S. military personnel do not enter active minefields or remove emplaced landmines or ERW.
- Significant benefits to U.S. military forces.
  - Access to geographical areas otherwise not easily available to U.S. forces.
  - Unit and individual readiness by providing unique in-country training opportunities i.e. critical wartime, civil-military, language, cultural, and foreign internal defense skills.
  - DoD health services professionals conduct programs to assist victims that enable U.S. military medical contacts with foreign medical providers and provide direct humanitarian assistance.

***Foreign Disaster Relief and Emergency Response (FDR/ER) Assistance*** supports the ability of the Department, through the Combatant Commanders, to respond to natural and manmade disasters and to manage the humanitarian considerations of security crises.

- Activities funded include transportation of emergency assistance during foreign disasters and programs to plan and prepare for such contingencies.
- Emergency response includes services and supplies for transportation, logistical support, search and rescue, medical evacuation, assistance to internally displaced personnel and the provision of Humanitarian daily Rations (HDR) to those in need of emergency food support.
- Projects also assist recipient countries in building capabilities to respond to emergencies, thus, reducing the potential need for U.S. military involvement in crisis management and response.